

REMARKS

The Examiner requires Applicants under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, all claims are generic. The election of species requirement is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the election of species requirement is respectfully requested.

The Examiner should note that Applicants' representative finds the Examiner's election of species requirement somewhat confusing.

First Interpretation of the Examiner's Requirement

If the Examiner's position is that Applicants should elect a single species from each of formulas (I) to (IV), then Applicants' representative agrees that such a requirement is reasonable. Under these circumstances, Applicants elect species I-1 from formula (I), species II-14 from formula (II), species III-2 from formula (III) and species IV-21 from formula (IV). This election is without traverse. All claims are believed to read on the elected species.

Second Interpretation of the Examiner's Requirement

If the Examiner's position is that Applicants should elect only one of formulas (I), (II), (III) or (IV), then Applicants' representative traverses the election of species requirement. Under these circumstances, for the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect formula (I), and if necessary, species I-1. Claims 1, 2 and 6-20 read on the elected species.

If the Examiner intended the above-mentioned second interpretation, then Applicants request clarification and reissuance of the requirement for election of species so that a more complete traversal may be presented. Applicants' representative is extremely hesitant to present arguments on the record that may subsequently adversely affect Applicants' rights due to a misinterpretation of the Examiner's election of species requirement.

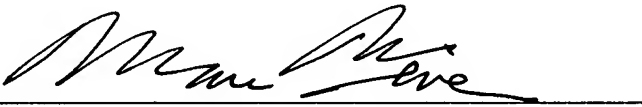
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner (Reg. No. 32,181) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 10/671,939

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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